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JUDGE SIGNS PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST MEDI-SHARE ***Florida group prohibited from operating in Kentucky***

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 1, 2011) – A permanent injunction signed today by Franklin Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wingate prohibits Florida-based Medi-Share, a program of The Christian Care Ministry, from operating in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Department of Insurance and the Office of the Attorney General took the group to court in June 2002, alleging that Medi-Share was an unauthorized health insurer. Medi-Share claimed to be a “sharing program” exempt from state regulation. Following years of court proceedings, the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled in August 2010 that Medi-Share was insurance and was not exempt from state regulation under the religious publication statute. Following a denial of Medi-Share’s request for a rehearing, the Supreme Court decision was final in December 2010.

“Today’s action by Judge Wingate brings closure to a long legal battle,” said Commissioner Sharon P. Clark. “One of our most important missions is to protect consumers and that charge kept us going for almost nine years. I commend our legal staff for its tenacity on behalf of Kentucky consumers.”

The permanent injunction prohibits Medi-Share or any successor plan or program from operating in the state unless it obtains the proper certificate of authority or qualifies for an exemption under the law.

Current Medi-Share members should immediately secure replacement health insurance. For assistance, members may call the Department of Insurance at 800-595-6053 and ask for Consumer Protection. A list of authorized health insurers is available on the Department’s website at <http://insurance.ky.gov>.

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